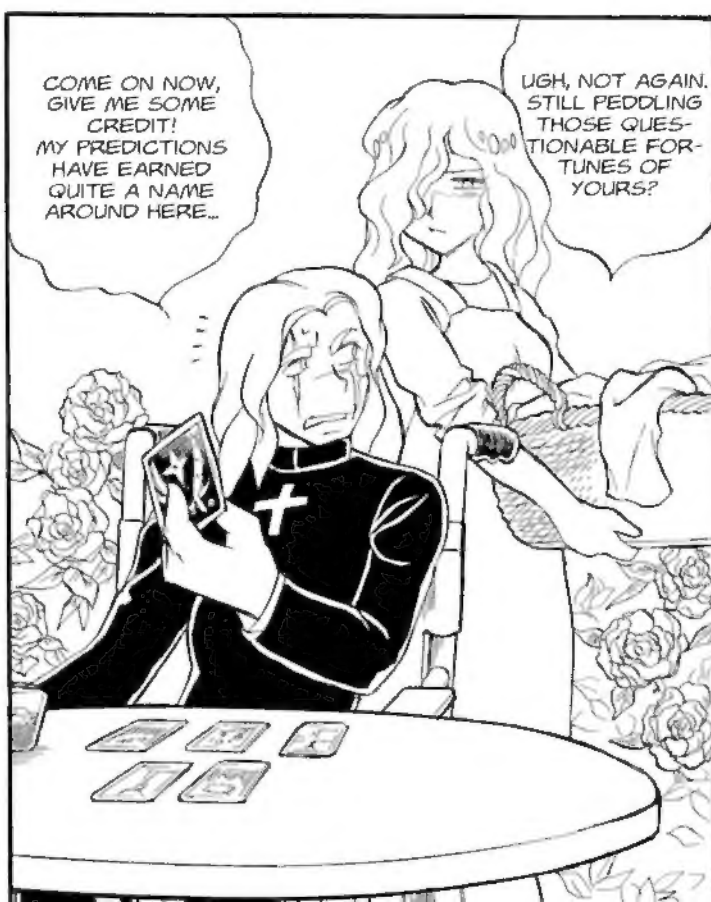
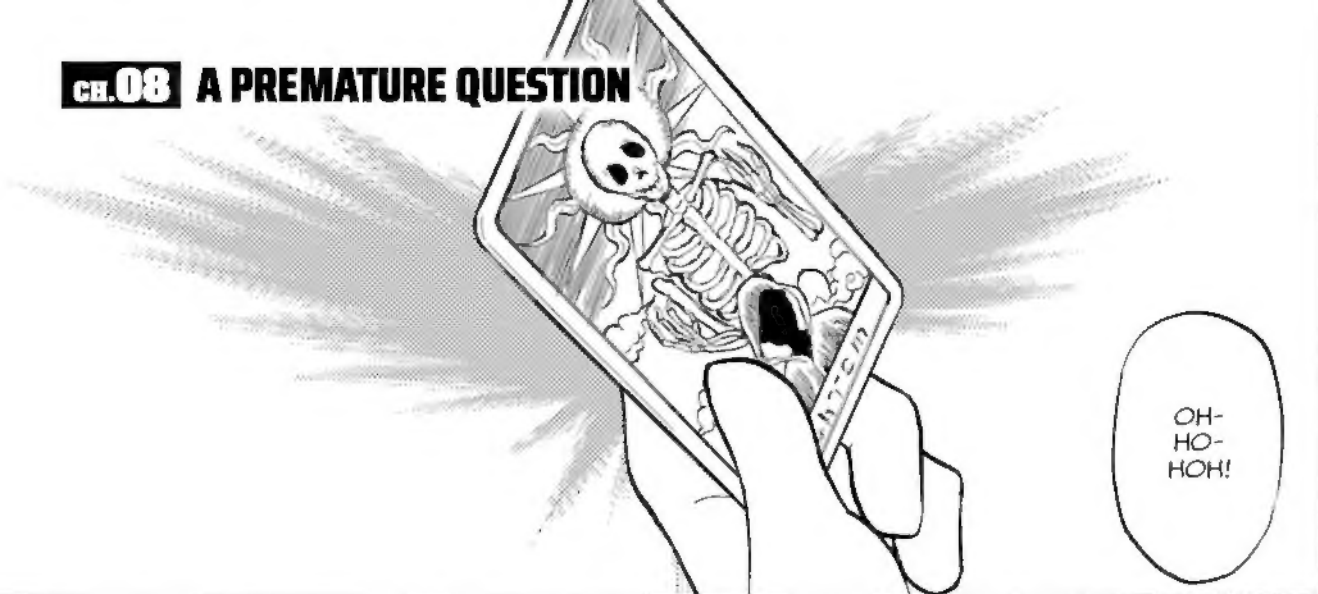
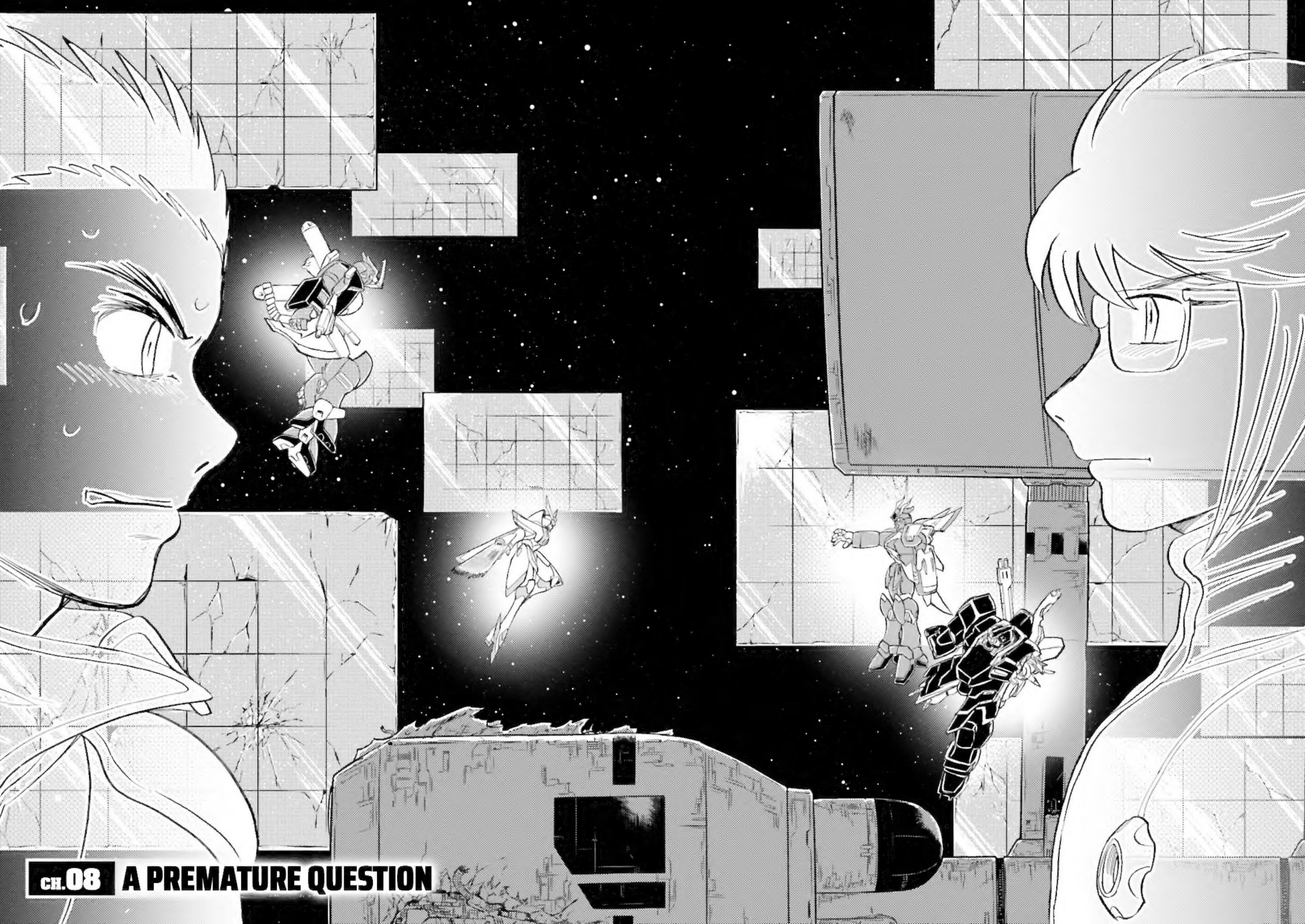






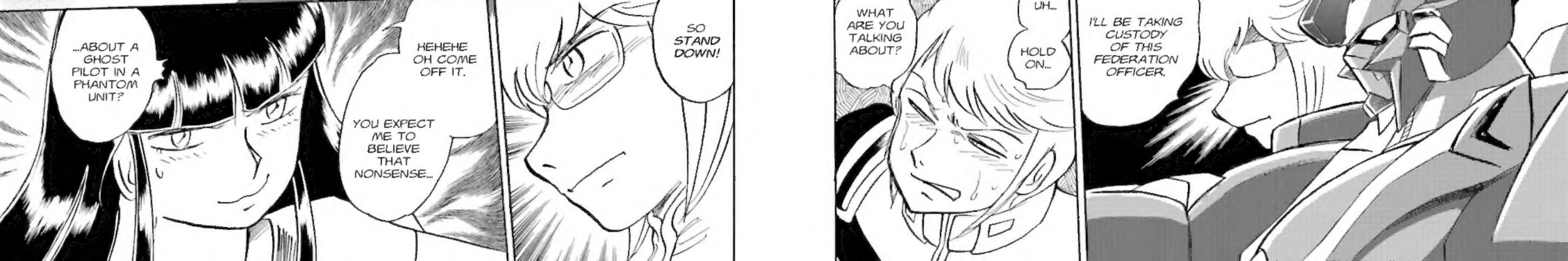


...YOUR SUITS
DON'T STAND
A CHANCE
AGAINST THIS
PHANTOM!

AS YOU
PROBABLY
REALIZE...

DO
WHAT?

FALL
BACK!



...ABOUT A
GHOST
PILOT IN A
PHANTOM
UNIT?

YOU EXPECT
ME TO
BELIEVE
THAT
NONSENSE...

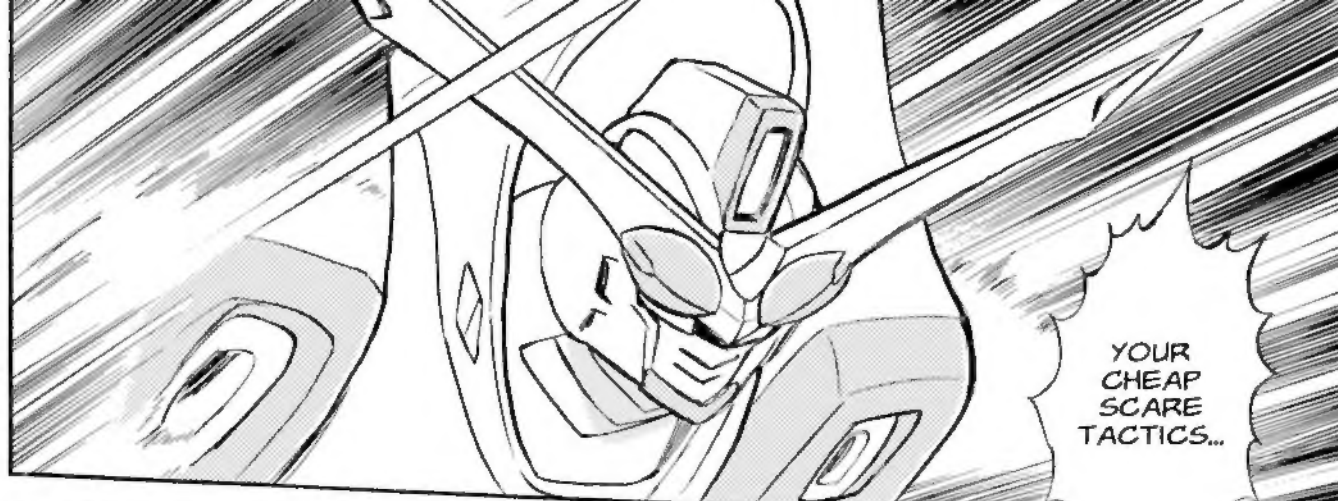
HEHEHE
OH COME
OFF IT.

SO
STAND
DOWN!

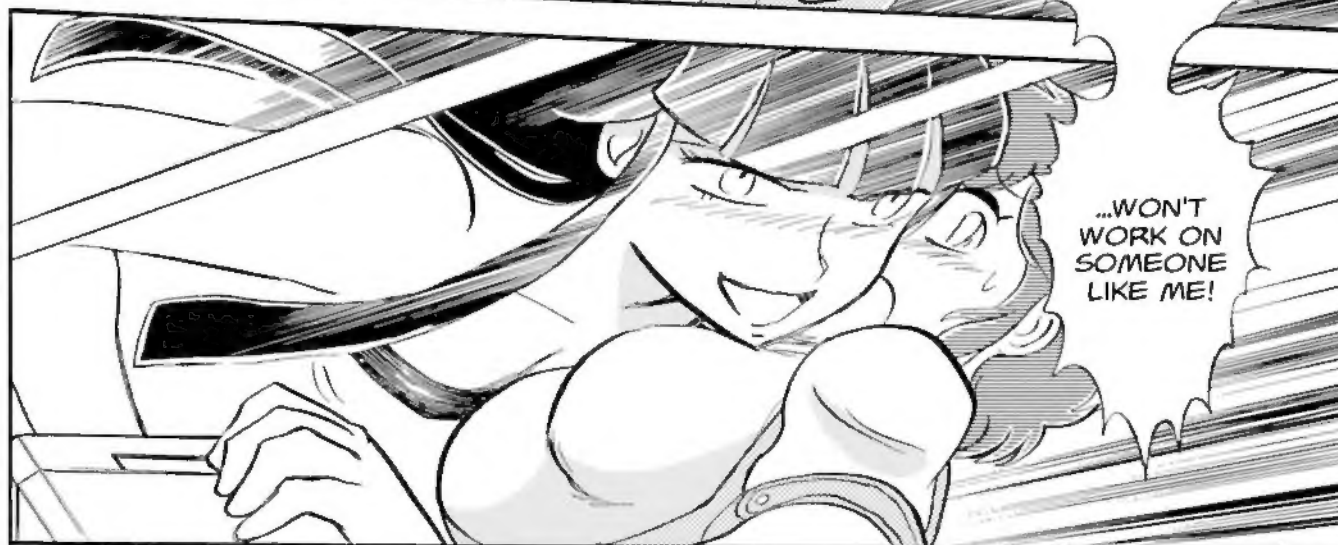
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

UH...
HOLD
ON...

I'LL BE TAKING
CUSTODY
OF THIS
FEDERATION
OFFICER.



YOUR
CHEAP
SCARE
TACTICS...



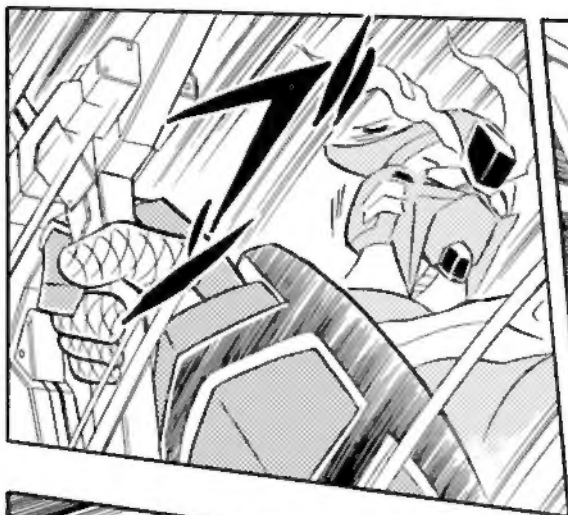
...WON'T
WORK ON
SOMEONE
LIKE ME!













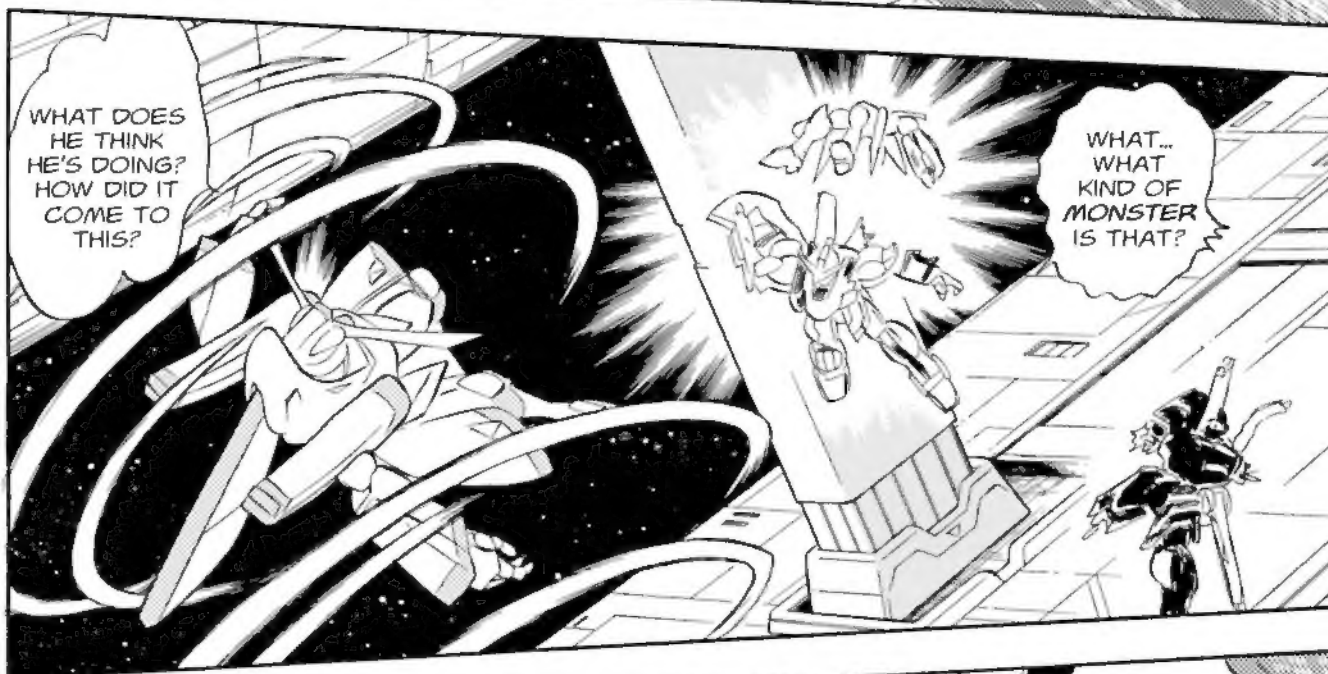


UH...

???



WELL,
THINGS ARE
CERTAINLY
GOING TO
HELL IN A
HANDBASKET.



WHAT DOES
HE THINK
HE'S DOING?
HOW DID IT
COME TO
THIS?

WHAT...
WHAT
KIND OF
MONSTER
IS THAT?



ARE
YOU
GOING
BER-
SERK
AGAIN?

THAT
FEEL-
ING...

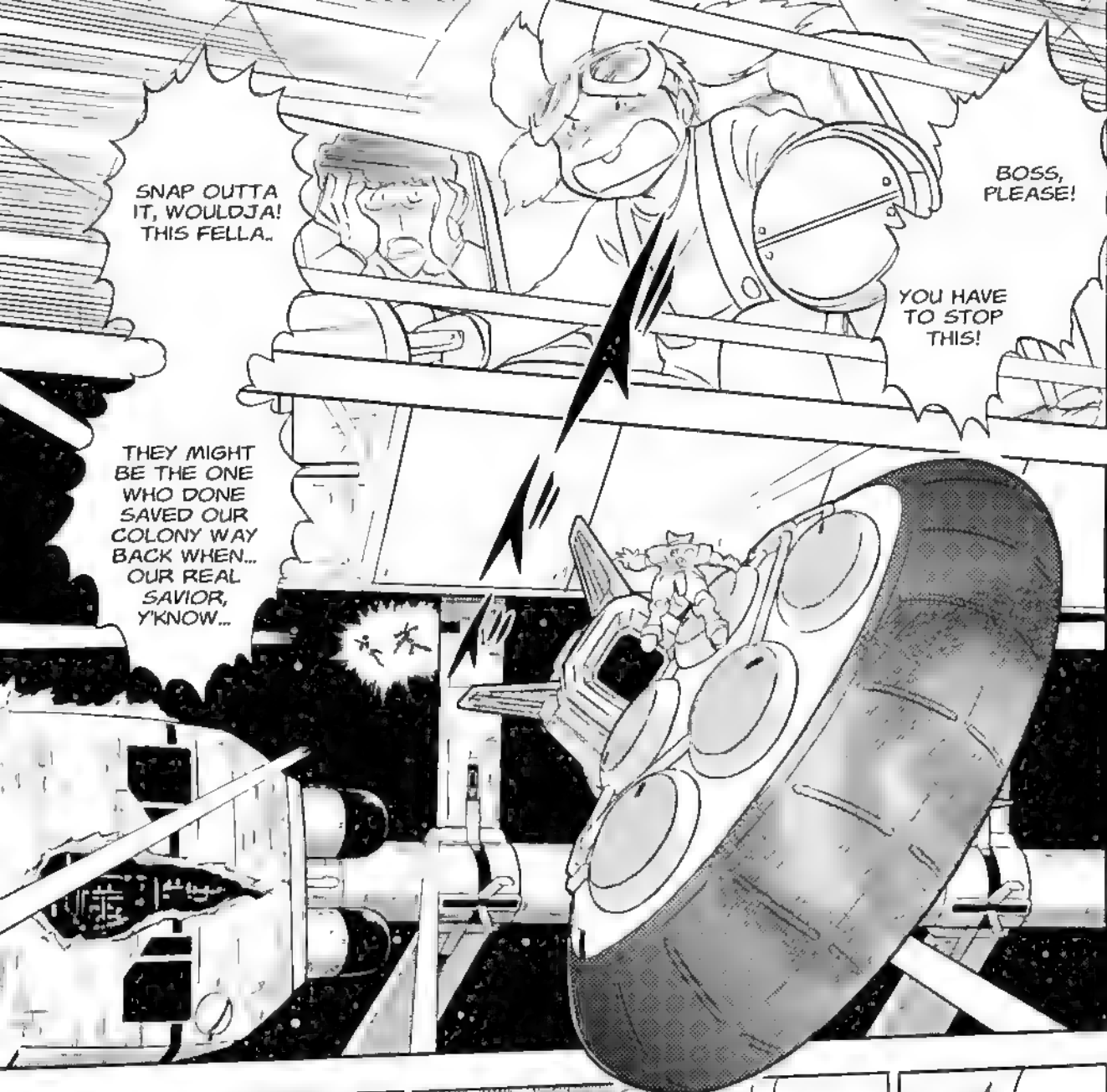


BUT...
WHY?



THESE
ATTACKS
ARE
COMPLETELY
RANDOM.

A-AH?

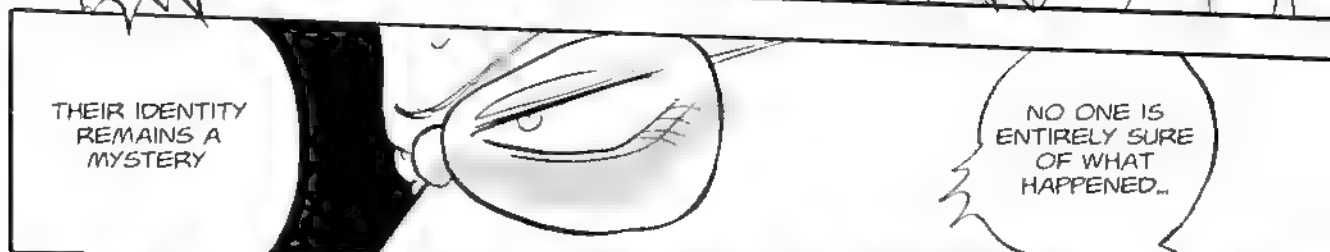




VAVA, I
NEED
ANSWERS!

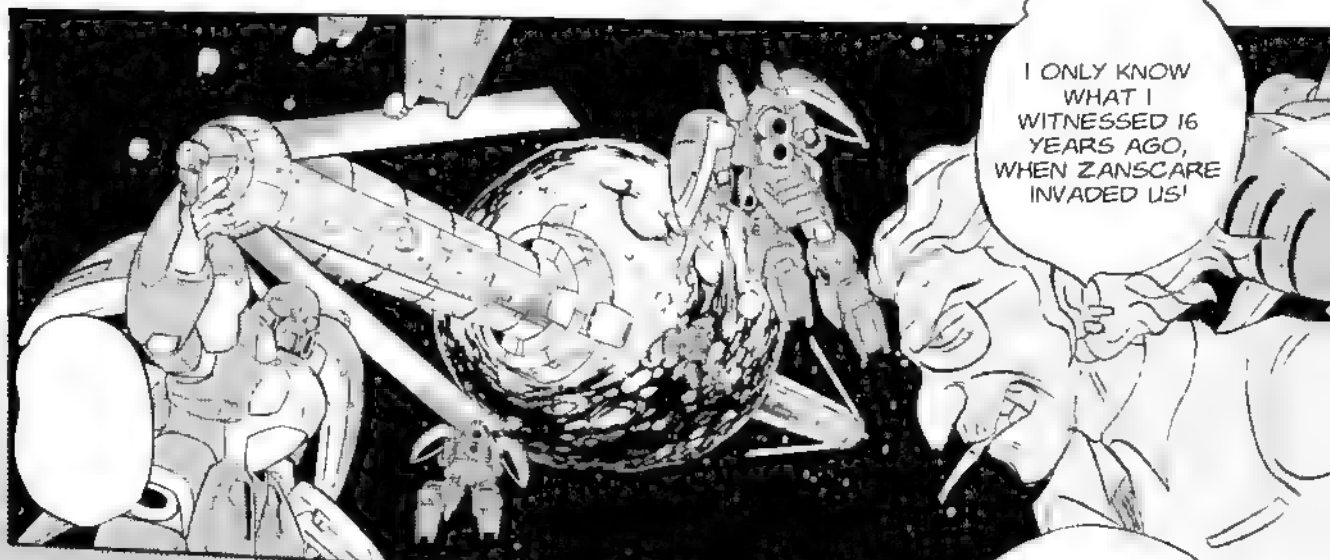
WHAT IS THIS
GHOST
EVERYONE
SPEAKS OF?

WHAT DARK
PAST
HAUNTS
ASH?



THEIR IDENTITY
REMAINS A
MYSTERY

NO ONE IS
ENTIRELY SURE
OF WHAT
HAPPENED...



I ONLY KNOW
WHAT I
WITNESSED 16
YEARS AGO,
WHEN ZANSKARE
INVADED US!



...THE FIRST
INNOCENT
SOUL
DRAGGED
TO THE EX-
ECUTION-
ERS BLOCK!

ASH WAS
AMONG
THEM...



THOSE MONSTERS
TOOK OUR CHILDREN
HOSTAGE,
THREATENING
THEM WITH THE
GUILLOTINE IF WE
DARED RESIST



...A
MOBILE SUIT
WREATHED
IN FLAMES!



BUT THEN...
IN THAT
MOMENT OF
DESPAIR...



...IT
APPEARED
LIKE DIVINE
INTERVEN-
TION...



IT TORE
THROUGH
ZANSCARE'S
FORCES LIKE
PAPER...
...BECOMING
THE SPARK
THAT
IGNITED
OUR
COLONY'S
LIBERATION.



THE
PHANTOM
VANISHED AS
QUICKLY AS
IT APPEARED

NOT A
SINGLE
SIGHTING
SINCE!

THAT'S
WHERE MY
KNOWLEDGE
ENDS!



BUT
SOME-
THING
DOESN'T
ADD UP...

SO THAT
WAS THE
GHOST?



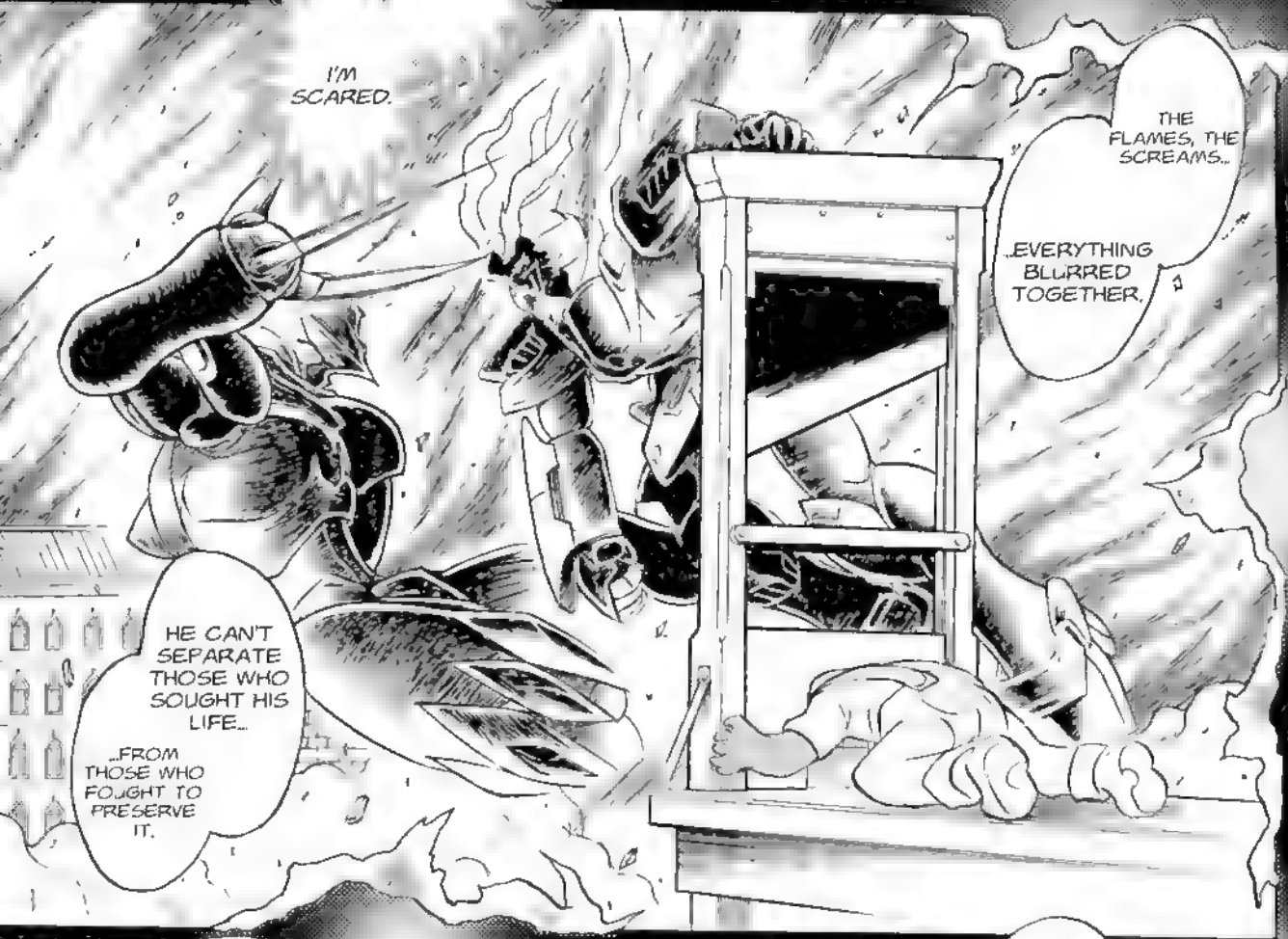


...THRUST INTO
HELL ITSELF!

IT WAS
INEVITABLE.

ASH WAS
JUST A
CHILD...

I'M
SCARED.



I'M
SCARED.

THE
FLAMES, THE
SCREAMS...

EVERYTHING
BLURRED
TOGETHER.

HE CAN'T
SEPARATE
THOSE WHO
SOUGHT HIS
LIFE...

...FROM
THOSE WHO
FOUGHT TO
PRESERVE
IT.

...THIS
MASSIVE
TRAUMA...

IT'S ALL
BECOME
ONE...

I'M
SCARED.



...SLOWLY
CRUSHING
ASH'S VERY
SOUL.



MUST
DESTROY
IT...

MUST
DESTROY...

TERROR...

CONSUMING
ME...



...THIS
NIGHT-
MARE



THIS
FEAR.

STOP
THIS!

IT'S DE-
VOURING
ME...



YOU'RE
WRONG!

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT
THIS IS!

MUST
DESTROY...

THIS
FEAR...



BY NOTHING
MORE THAN...

SHADOWS
OF THE
PAST!

WAKE THE
FUCK
UP, ASH!

YOU'RE
LETTING
YOURSELF
GET
SPOOKED...



WHAT AM I
BECOMING...

BREAK
FREE
FROM
THESE DE-
LUSIONS!

WHAT AM I
DOING
HERE?

THINK
CLEAR-
LY!



DON'T LET
CHAOS
CLOUD
YOUR
JUDGMENT!

FOCUS
YOUR
MIND!



THEN,
YOU'RE IN
CHARGE
NOW.

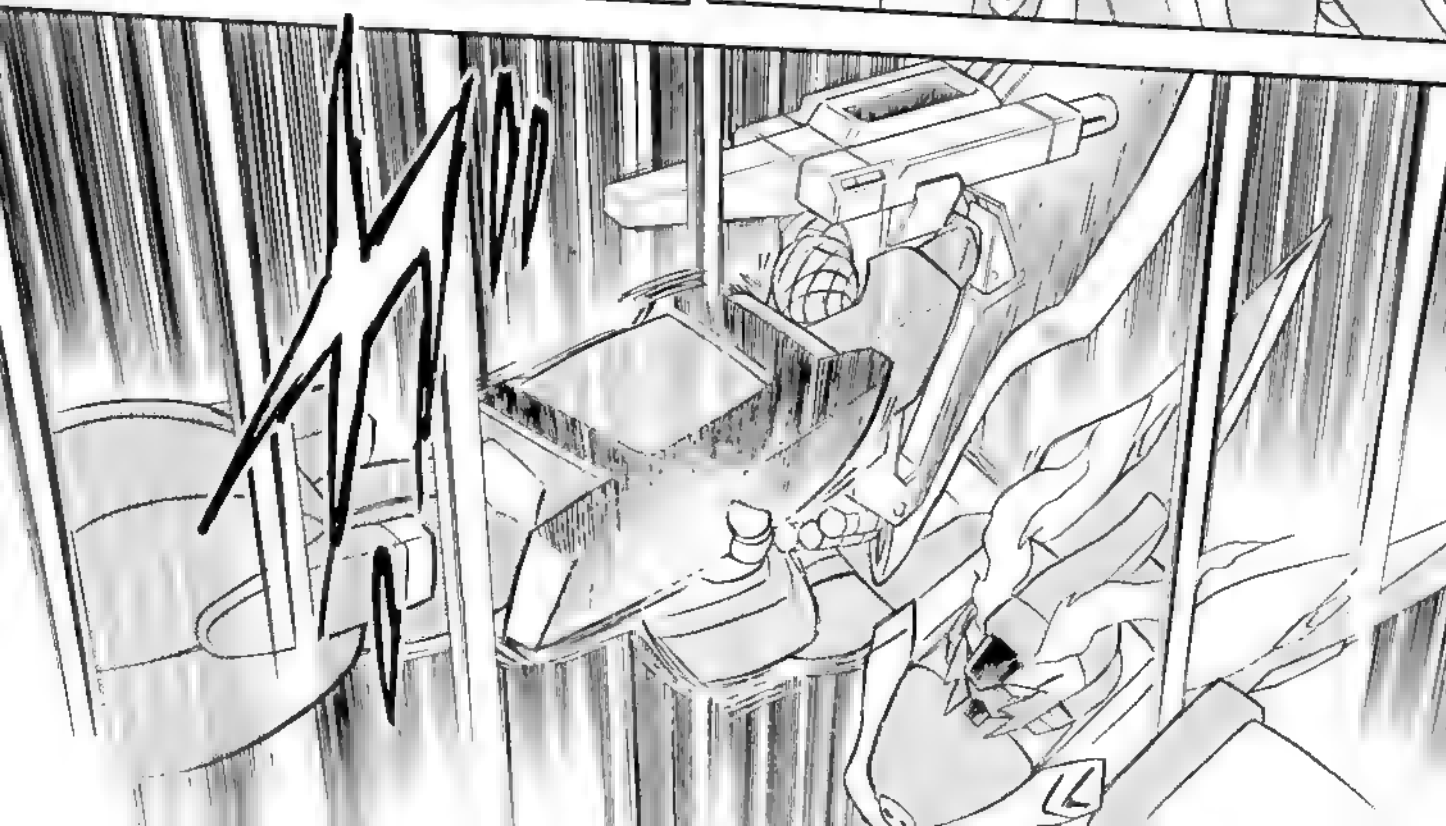
THOSE...
WORDS...

?



YOU'RE IN
CHARGE
OF THEM,
REMEMBER?









...CALMLY!

LISTEN
TO ME...

OH, NO
WAY!

THEY
BLOCKED
THE BOSS'S
ANCHOR
LIKE IT WAS
NOTHING!



?

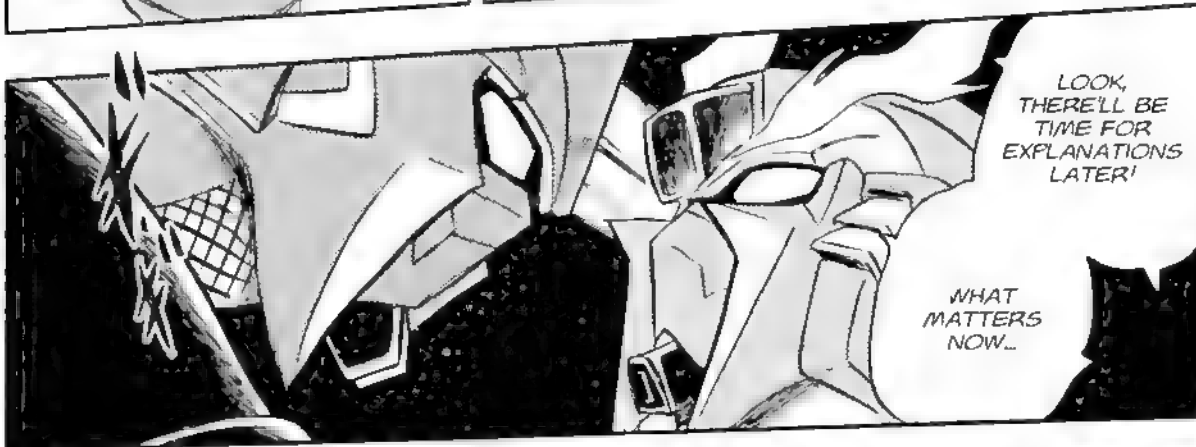
UHP?

HUH?

AND THAT'S
BECAUSE I
WAS FORCED
INTO COLD
SLEEP.

THERE'S A
REASON I
HAVEN'T
CHANGED...

...OVER
THE LAST
SIXTEEN
YEARS.



LOOK,
THERE'LL BE
TIME FOR
EXPLANATIONS
LATER!

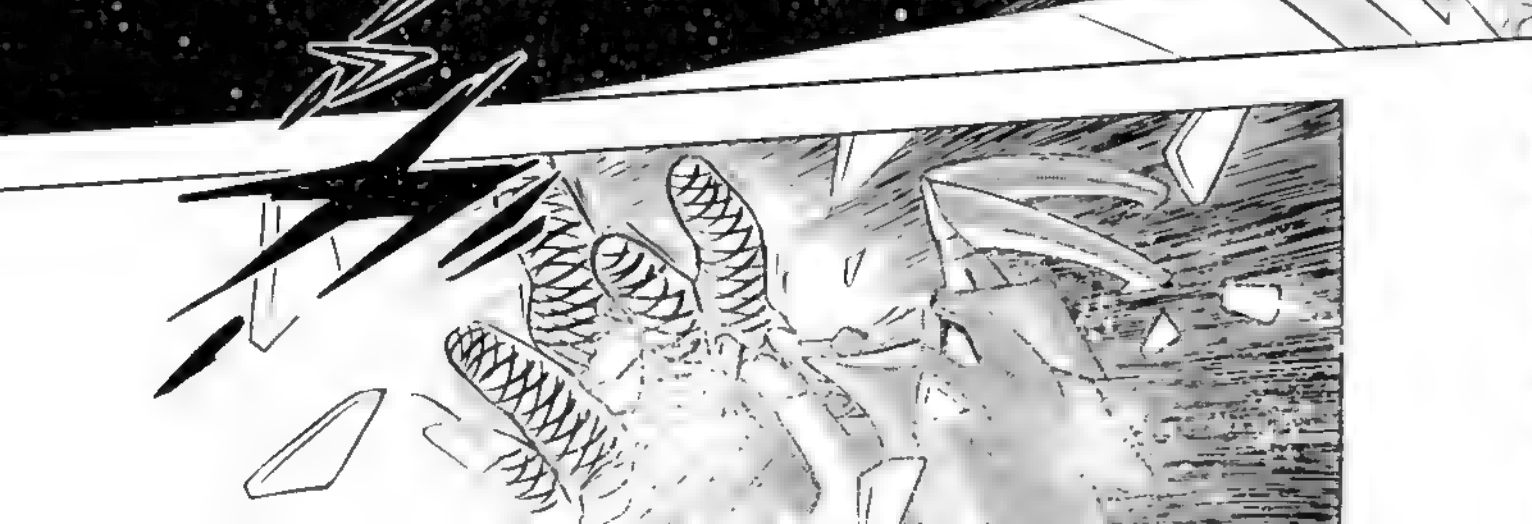
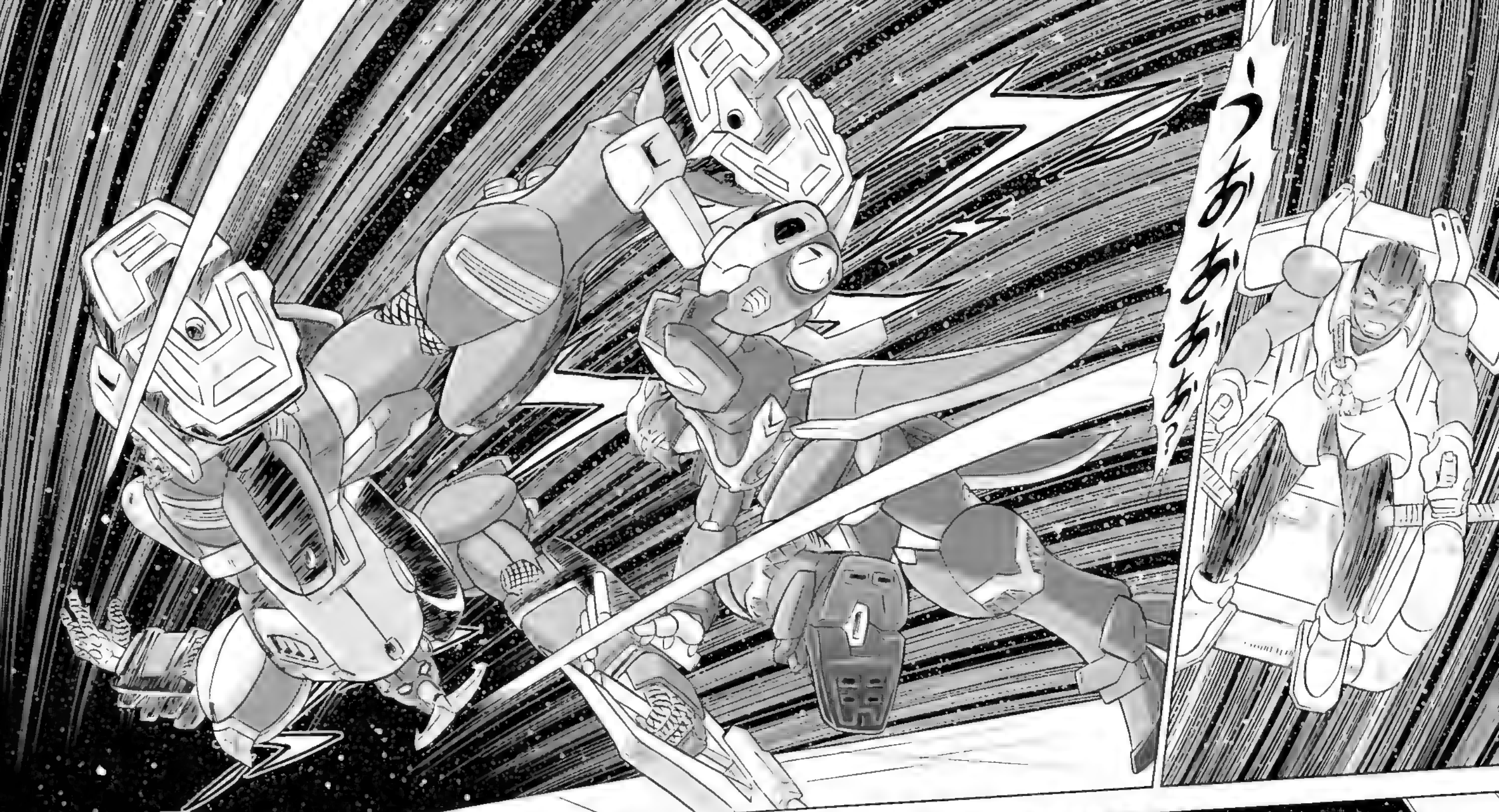
WHAT
MATTERS
NOW...



Y-YOU
WERE
WHAT?!

...IS THAT
I'VE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR YOU







GAH!

HE--



S-SO
STRONG!

EGADS!



...SWINGING
THE
ANCHOR
LIKE IT'S
A TOY!

HE'S
JUST...



URK!

KAGUYA!



OH, DIS AIN'T
GOOD! WE'RE
COMPLETELY
OUTCLASSED!



YOU CAN'T EVEN
OVERCOME
YOUR OWN
FEARS!



SORRY, BUT
I DON'T
EXACTLY
HAVE THE
LUXURY OF
TIME!



THIS IS OUR
WORLD'S
REALITY
NOW!

TAKE A
GOOD LOOK
AROUND YOU
AND THINK,
ASH!



THIS
FACILITY
HERE ONCE
POWERED
THOUSANDS
WITH ITS
MIGHT.



ONLY THE
CENTRAL
FOCAL
CONTROL
FAILED!

LOOK
CLOSER!
THE
MIRRORS
ARE STILL
INTACT!



YEAH,
WELL NO
DUH!

MY
GRANDPAPPY'S
GREATEST
WORK.



NOW, IT'S JUST
ANOTHER RUIN.



YET NOT
ONE
PERSON HAS
FIXED IT!

THEY
CAN'T!

THE LONG
WARS HAVE
STRIPPED
AWAY...

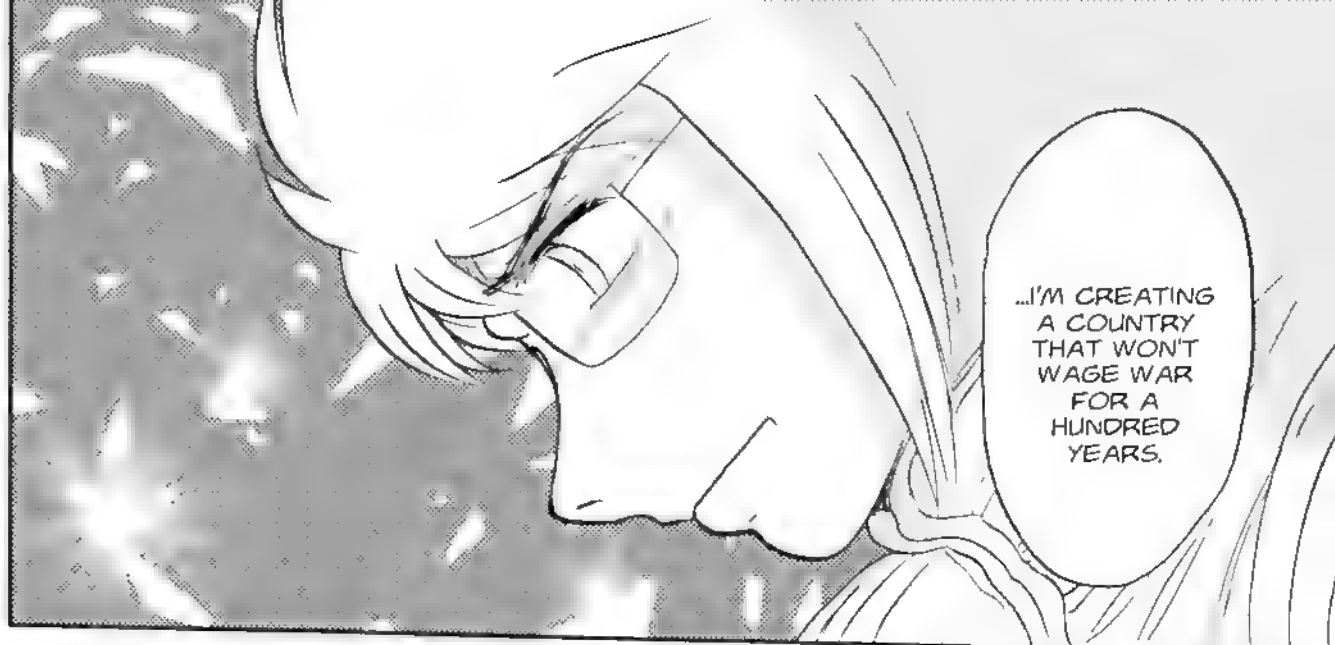
...BOTH THE
TECHNICAL
KNOWLEDGE
AND
ECONOMIC
STRENGTH!



THAT'S
WHY...

ORDER
MUST BE
RESTORED, AND
QUICKLY!





...I'M CREATING
A COUNTRY
THAT WON'T
WAGE WAR
FOR A
HUNDRED
YEARS.



MY MISSION,
MY PURPOSE,
IS TO
PREVENT
THAT END!

THIS
UNIVERSAL
CENTURY
IS DYING.



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



I'M TAKING
THE
FEDERATION
OFFICER
WITH ME...

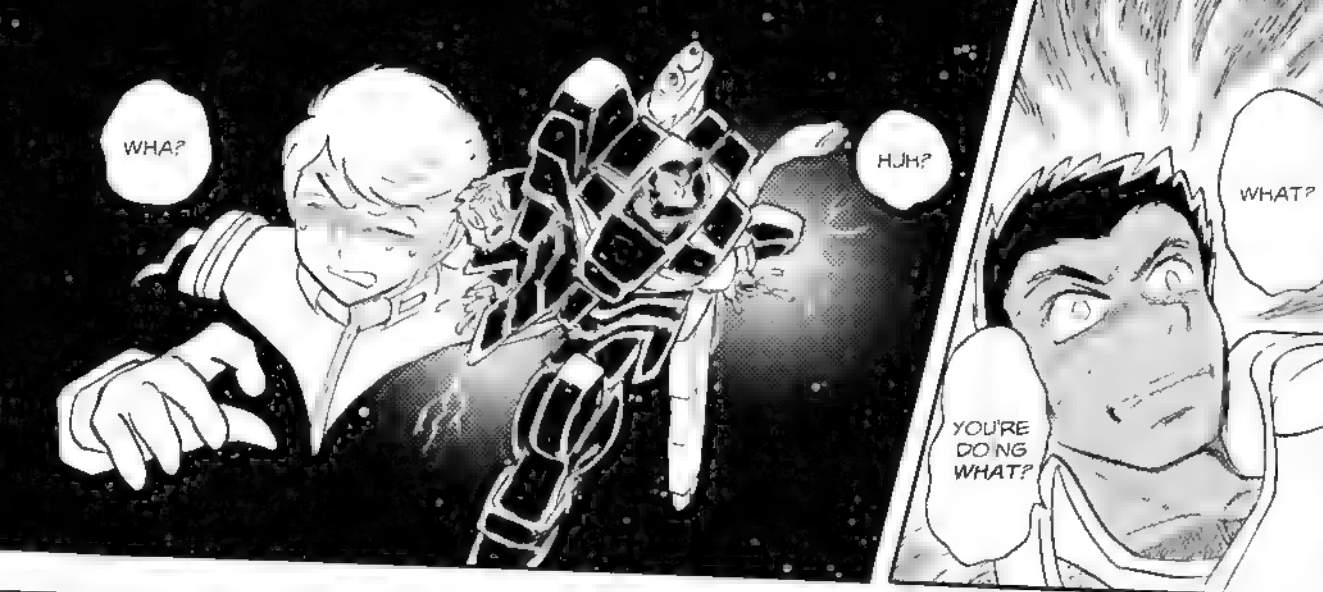


EVEN IF
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

I DON'T
GET IT.
DUDE, NONE
OF THIS
MAKES
SENSE!



WHAT DOES
ANY OF IT
HAVE TO DO
WITH ME?





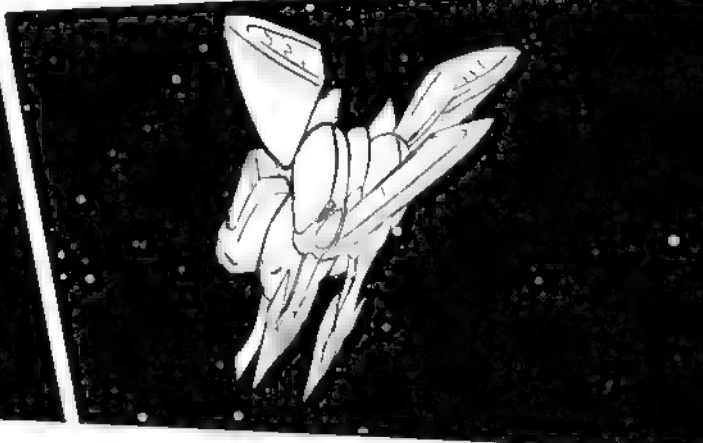
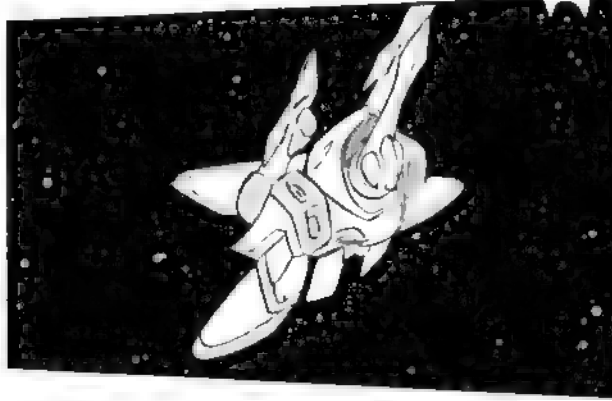




...WITH
SURGICAL
PRECISION!



I'LL
DISABLE
THE
GHOST'S
ENGINES...

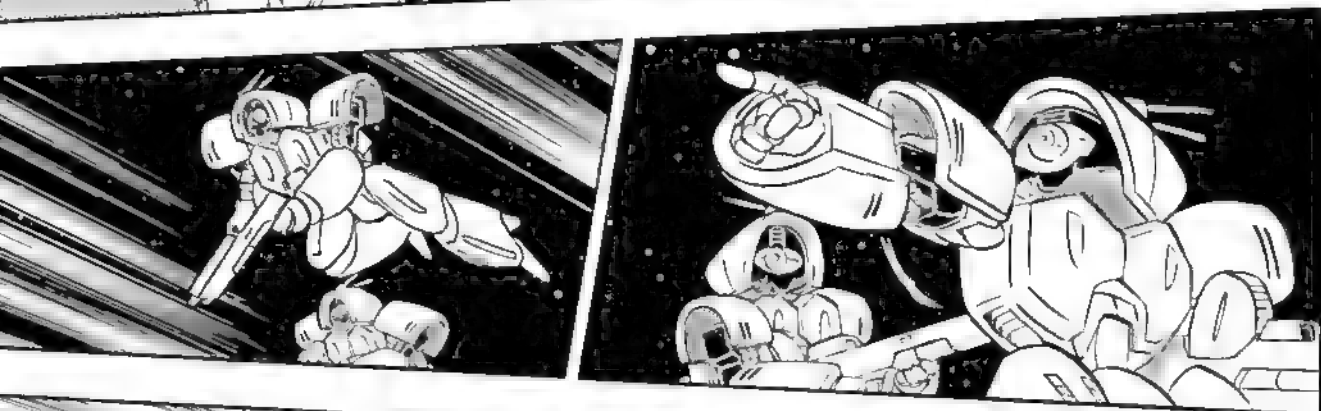
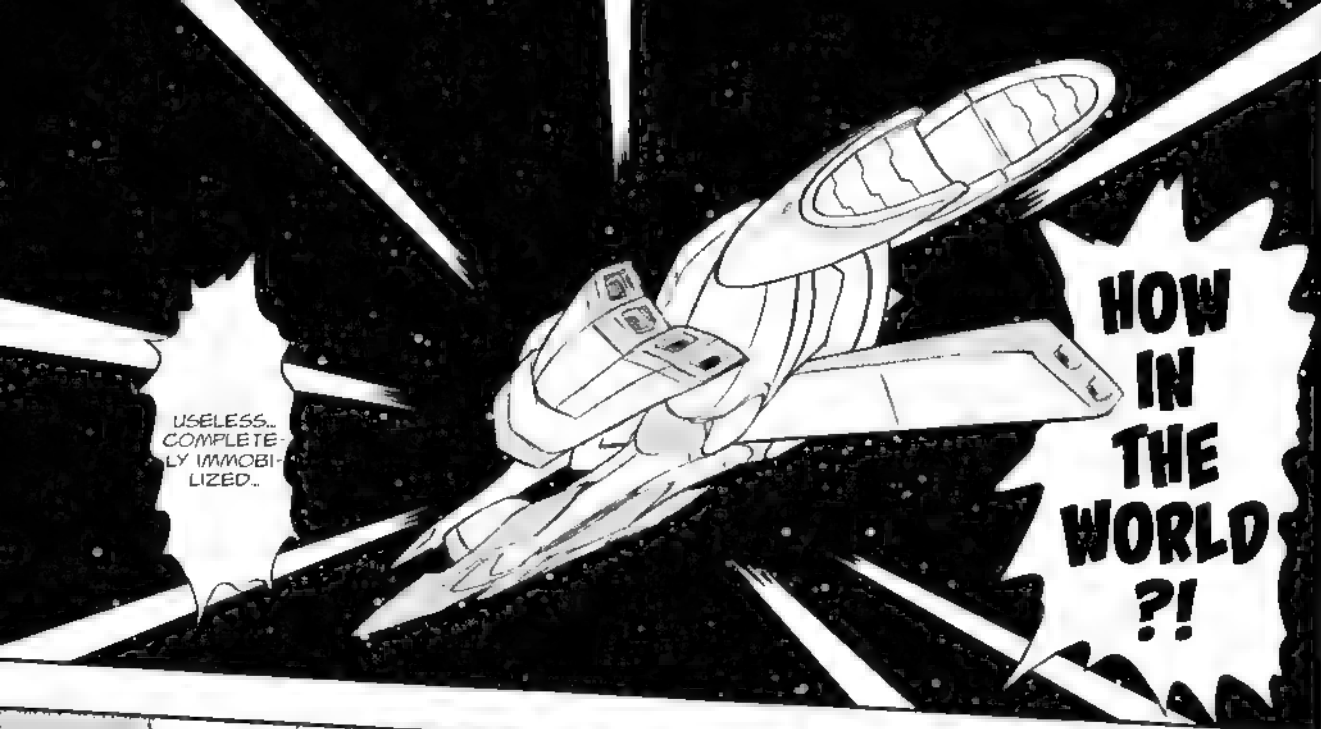


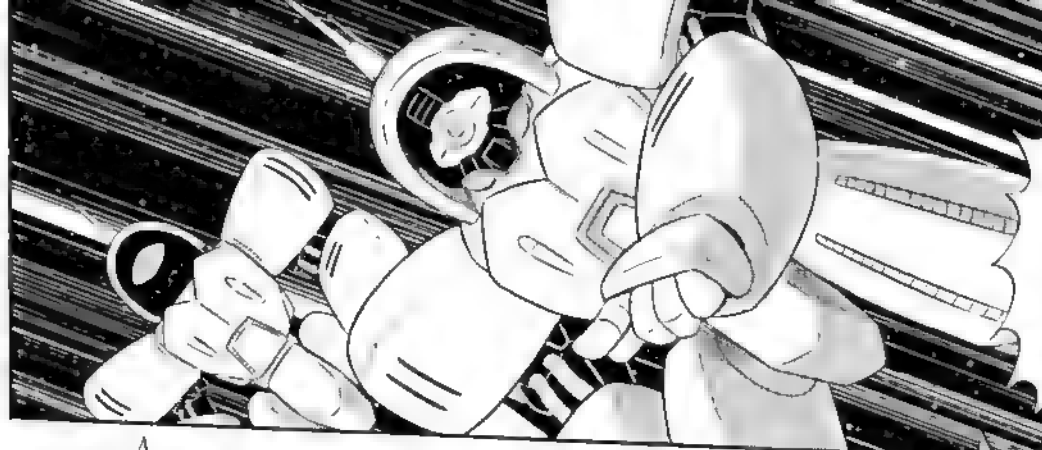
OUR
ENGINES...



HUH?

EH?



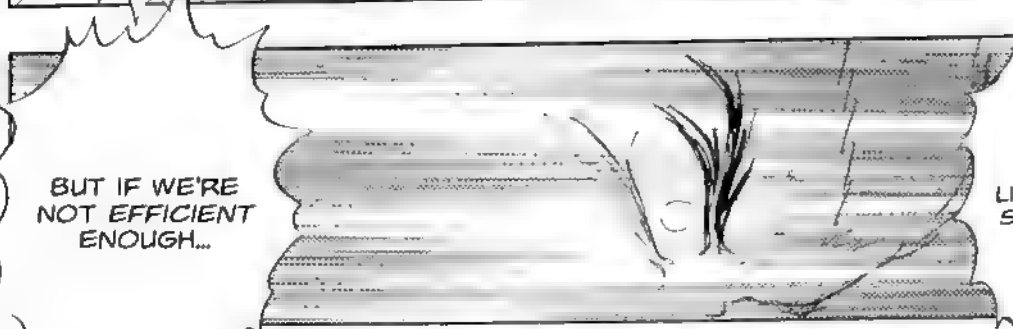


TARGET
SPOTTED!
DISABLED
MOBILE SUIT
DEAD AHEAD!



LET'S TAKE
DOWN THIS
TROPHY WHILE
WE CAN!

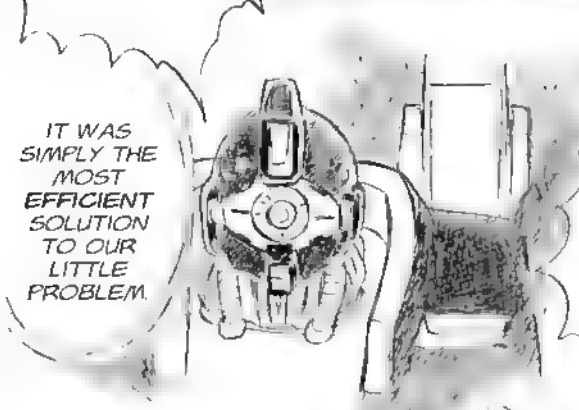
THIS IS OUR
CHANCE!



BUT IF WE'RE
NOT EFFICIENT
ENOUGH...

NOT
ONE
LICK OF
SENSE!

NONE OF
THIS
MAKES
SENSE!



IT WAS
SIMPLY THE
MOST
EFFICIENT
SOLUTION
TO OUR
LITTLE
PROBLEM.

...WILL YOU
DISPOSE OF US
LIKE THAT
CYCLOPS?
WOULD YOU
REALLY?



...THE MOST
EFFICIENT
PATH
FORWARD!



YOU MEAN...
KILL US?
IS THAT
WHAT YOU'RE
SUGGESTING?

KILL US?





THAT'S
A LIE!



AND WHAT
IF I AM?



NGH!



IT'S
ALL
LIES!



COULD
NEVER!

THE GUY I
KNOW
WOULD
NEVER!

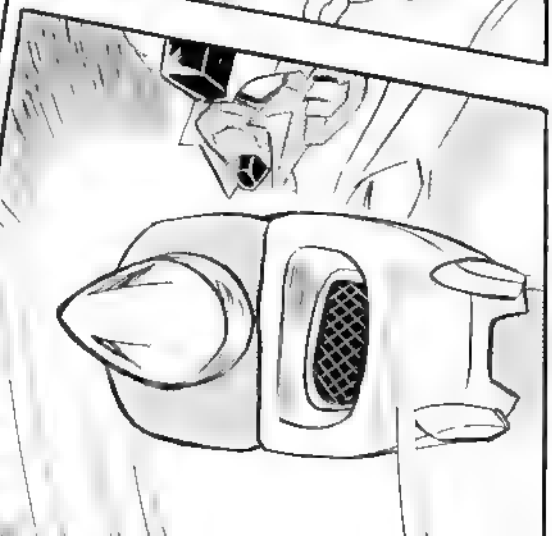


SAYING
CRAP
LIKE
THAT!

YET
HERE
YOU
ARE...



A
S
H!
!

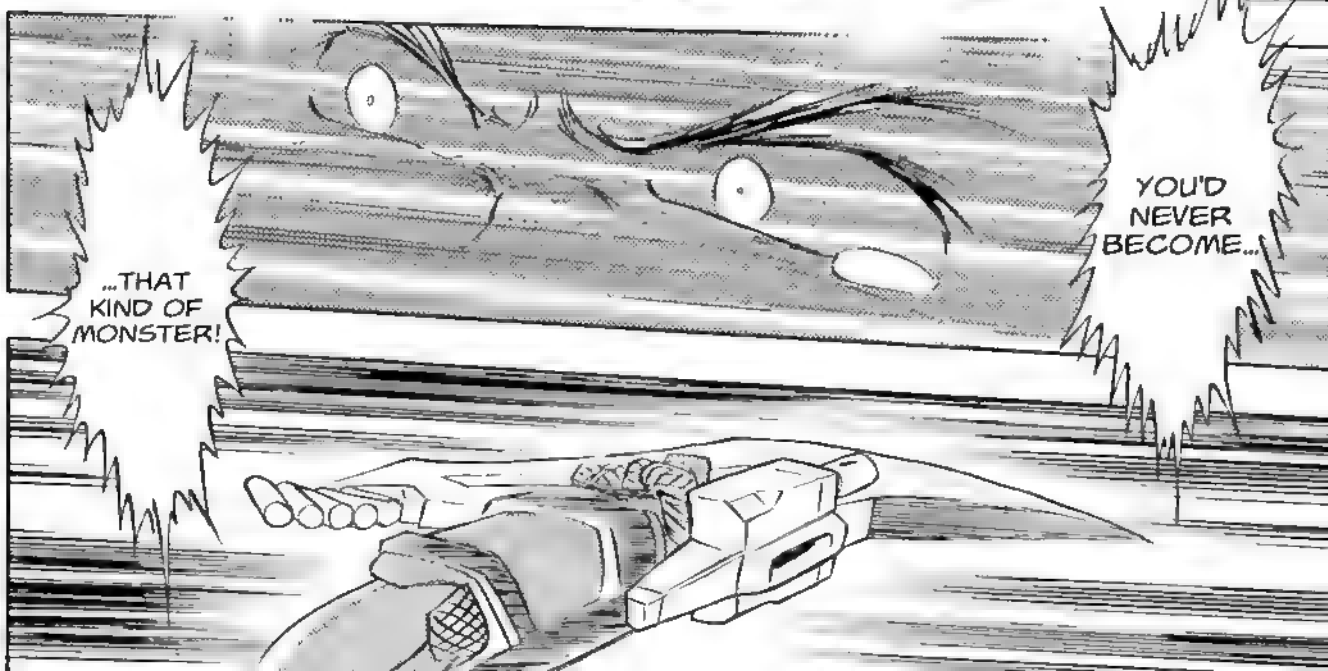




...I KNOW
THE TRUTH!

BUT DEEP
DOWN...

I'M
TERRIFIED
TO MY
CORE, BRO!



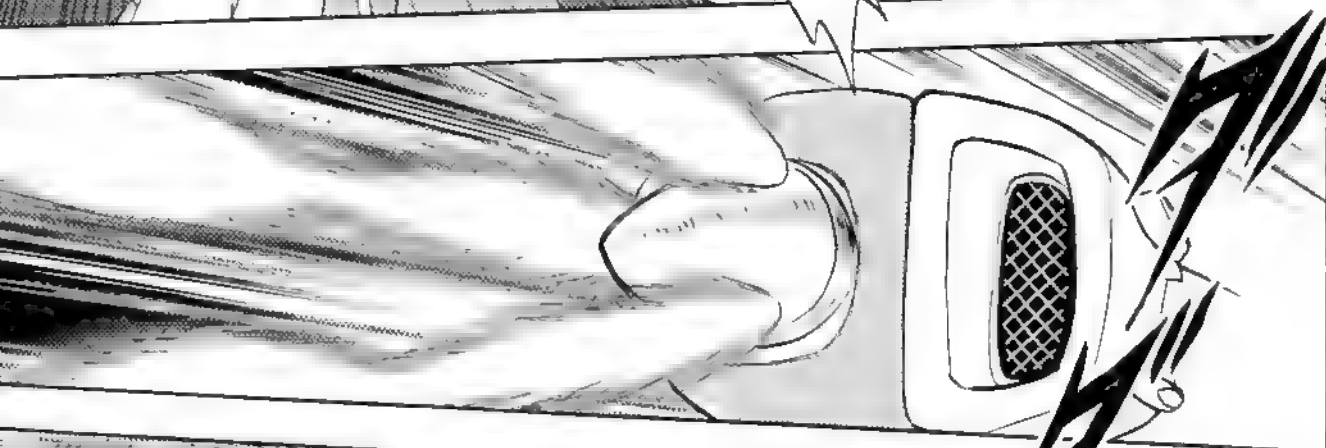
...THAT
KIND OF
MONSTER!

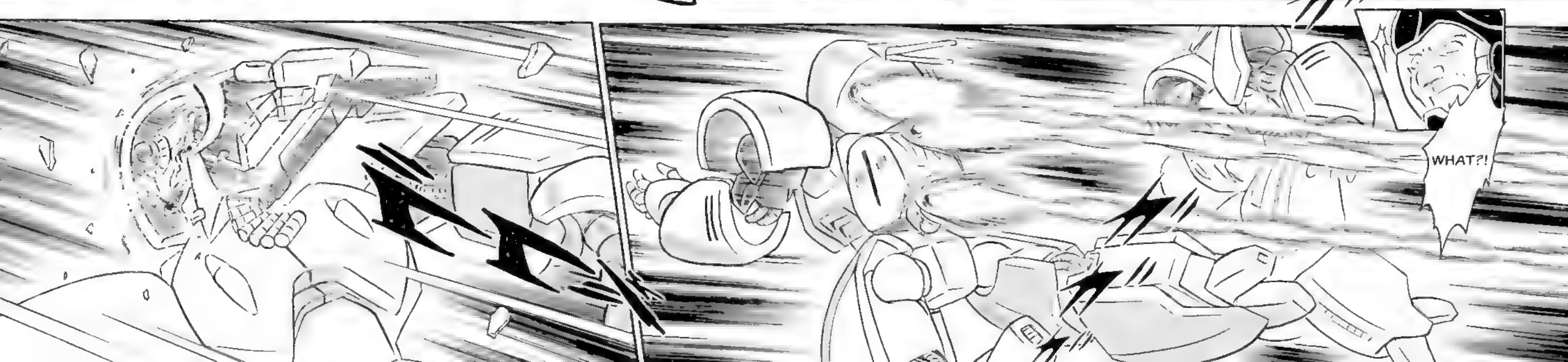
YOU'D
NEVER
BECOME...

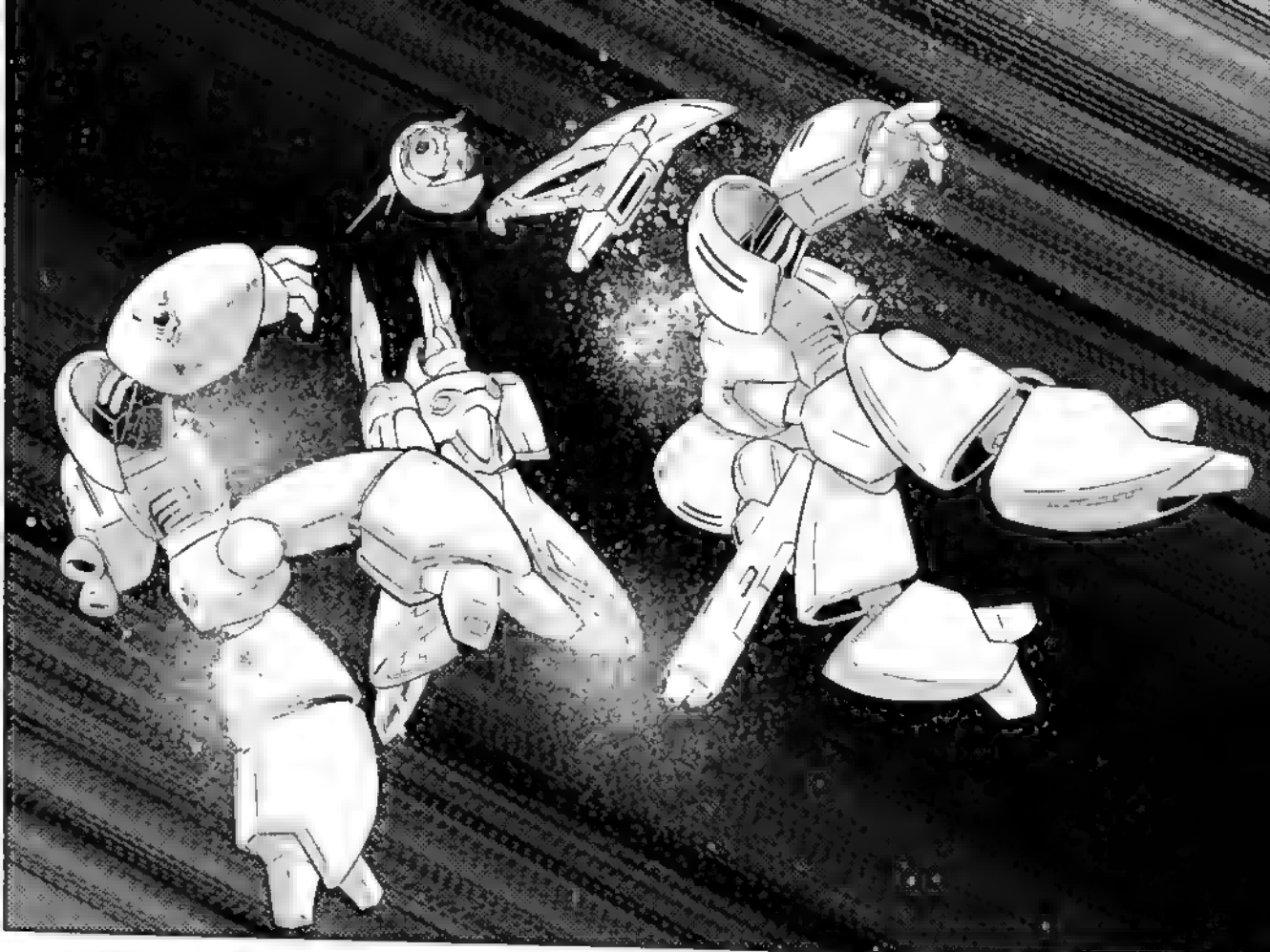


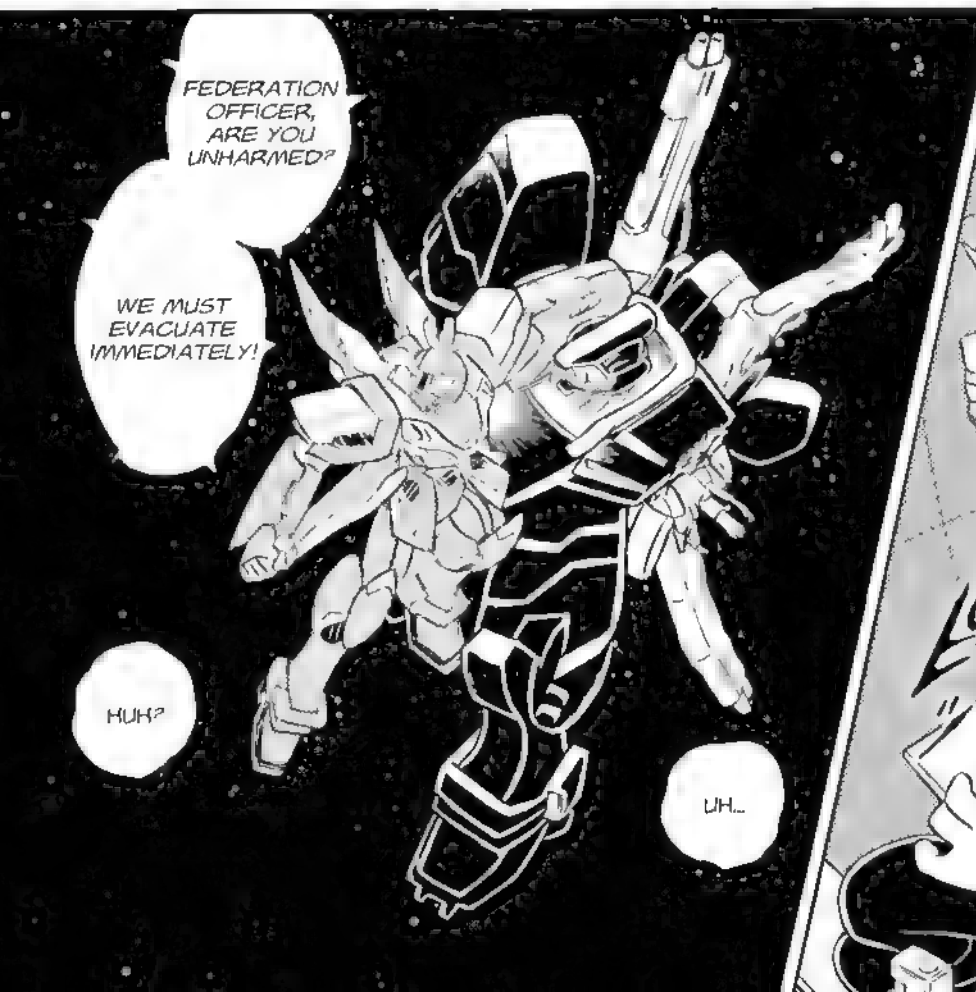
NEVER...

...IN A
MILLION
YEARS!









FEDERATION
OFFICER,
ARE YOU
UNHARMED?

WE MUST
EVACUATE
IMMEDIATELY!

HUH?

UH...



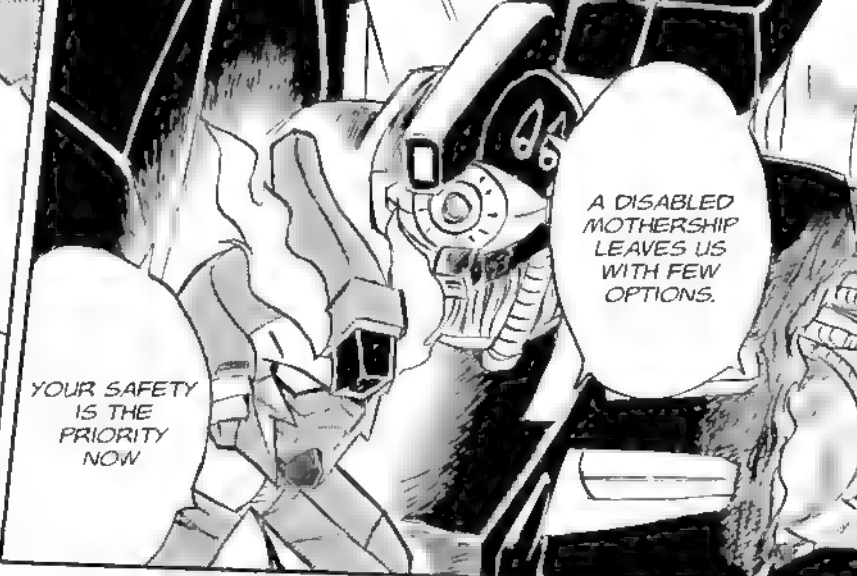
WHA?

WHAT
THE?



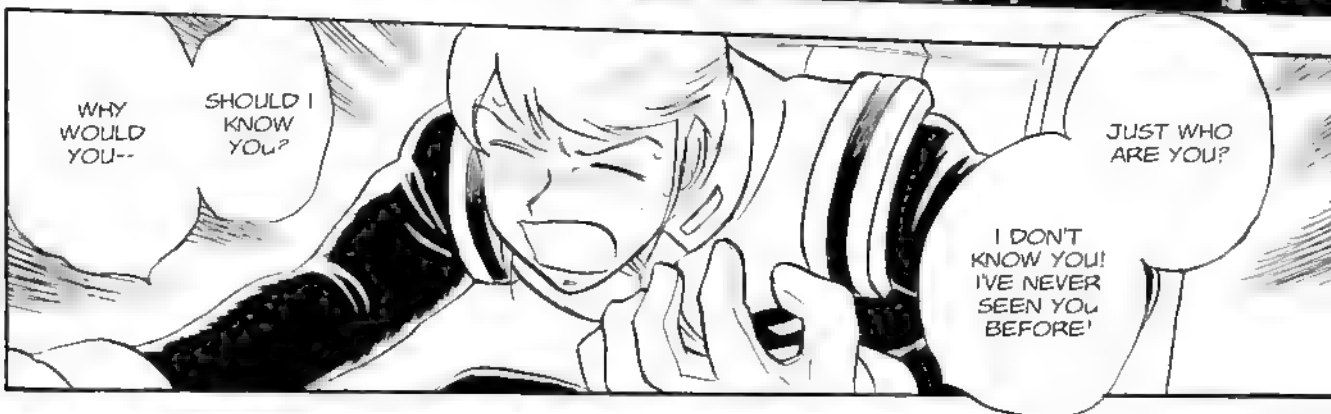
N-NO
HOLD
ON!

ORDER ALL
CAPABLE
MOBILE
UNITS TO
FOLLOW.



YOUR SAFETY
IS THE
PRIORITY
NOW

A DISABLED
MOTHERSHIP
LEAVES US
WITH FEW
OPTIONS.

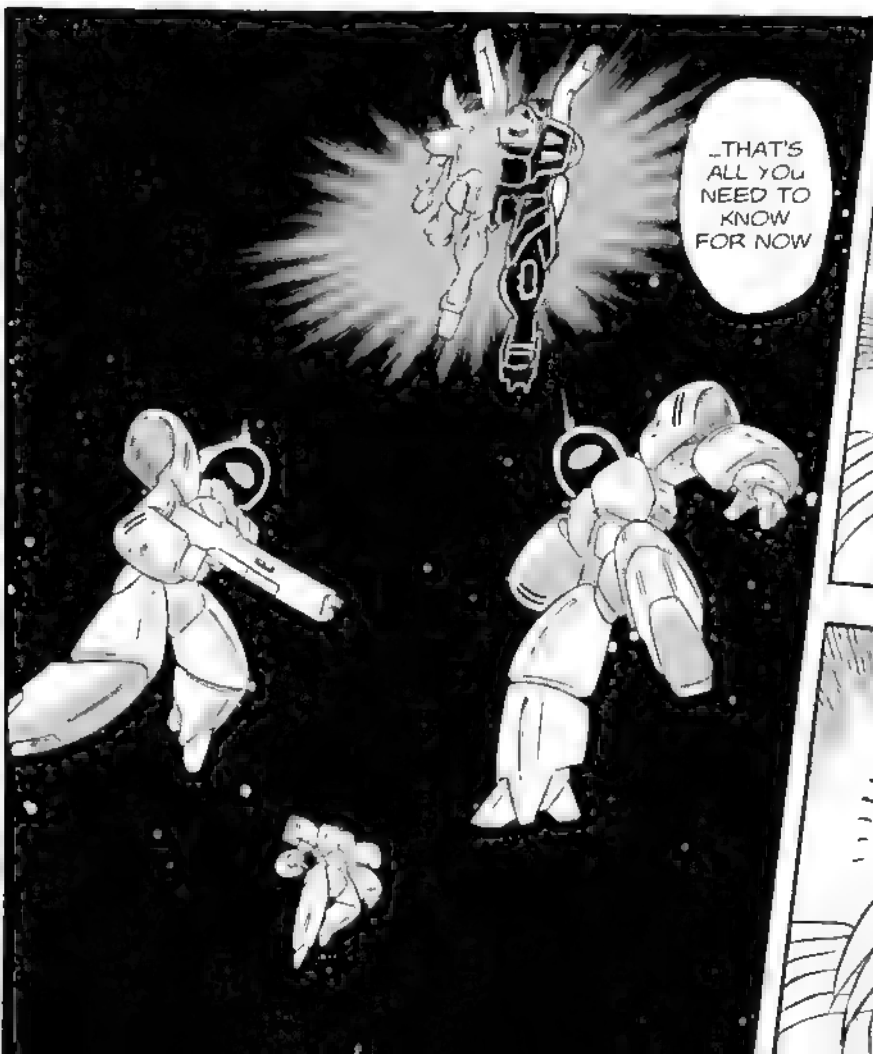


WHY
WOULD
YOU--

SHOULD I
KNOW
YOU?

JUST WHO
ARE YOU?

I DON'T
KNOW YOU!
I'VE NEVER
SEEN YOU
BEFORE!



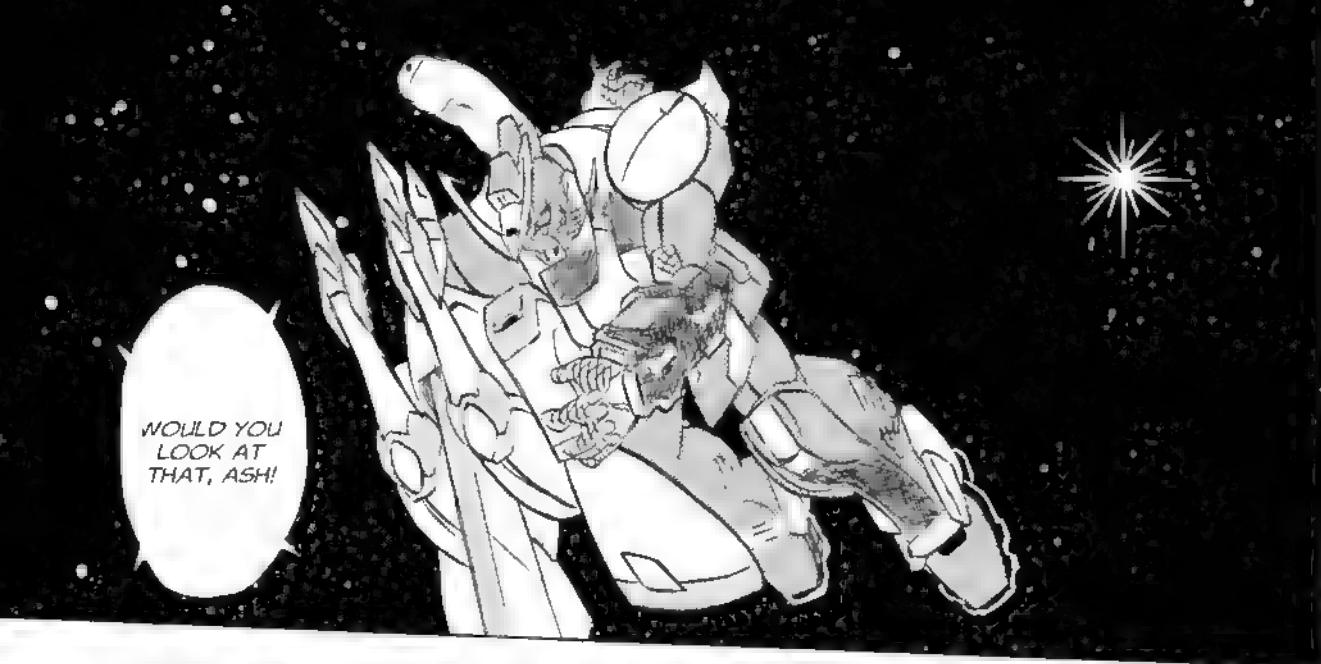
...THAT'S
ALL YOU
NEED TO
KNOW
FOR NOW

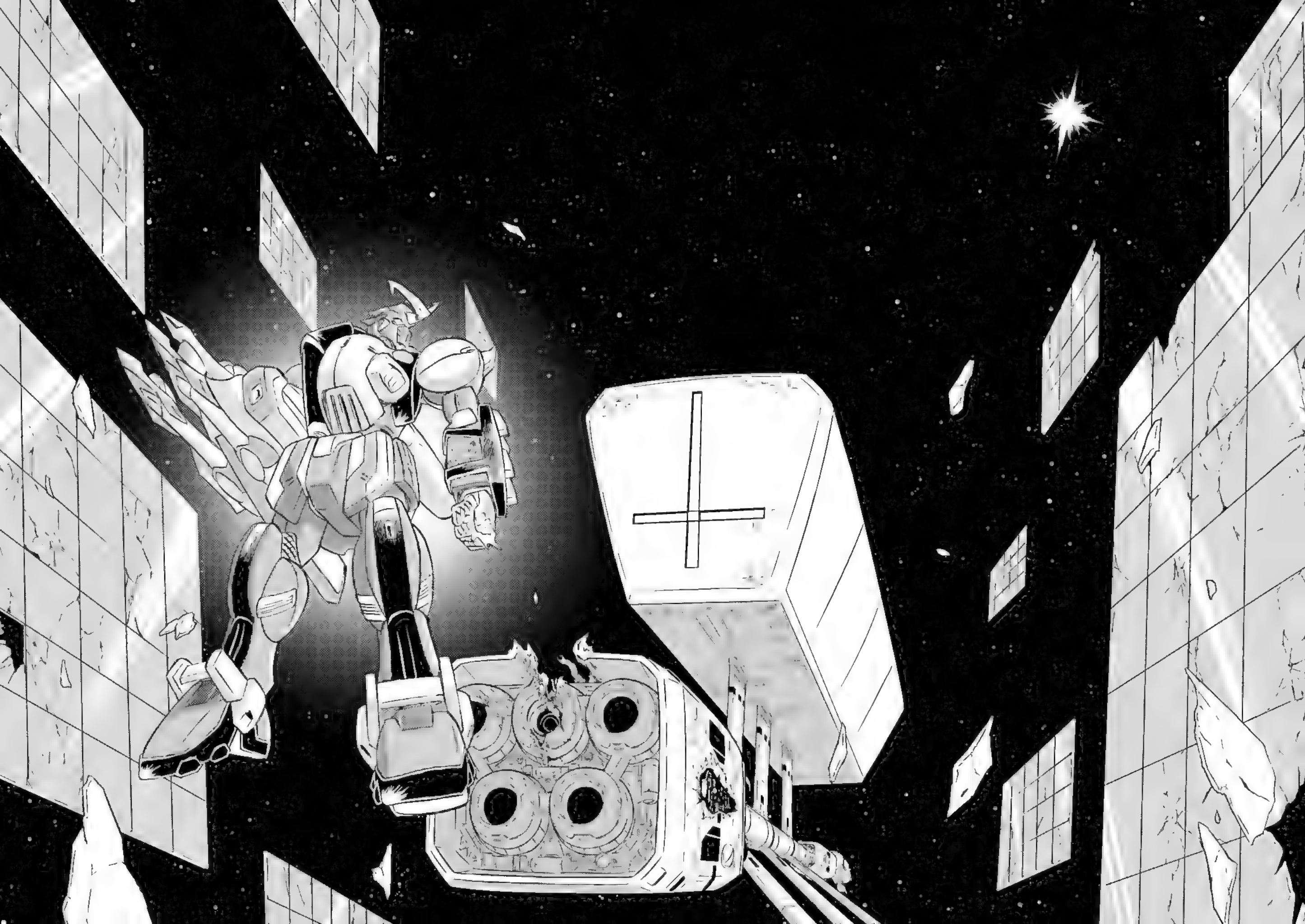


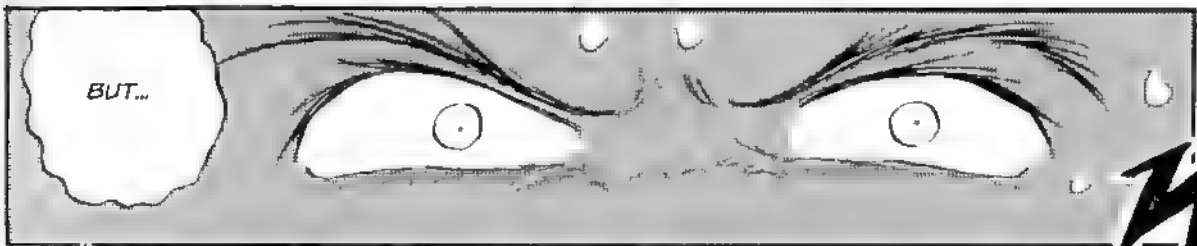
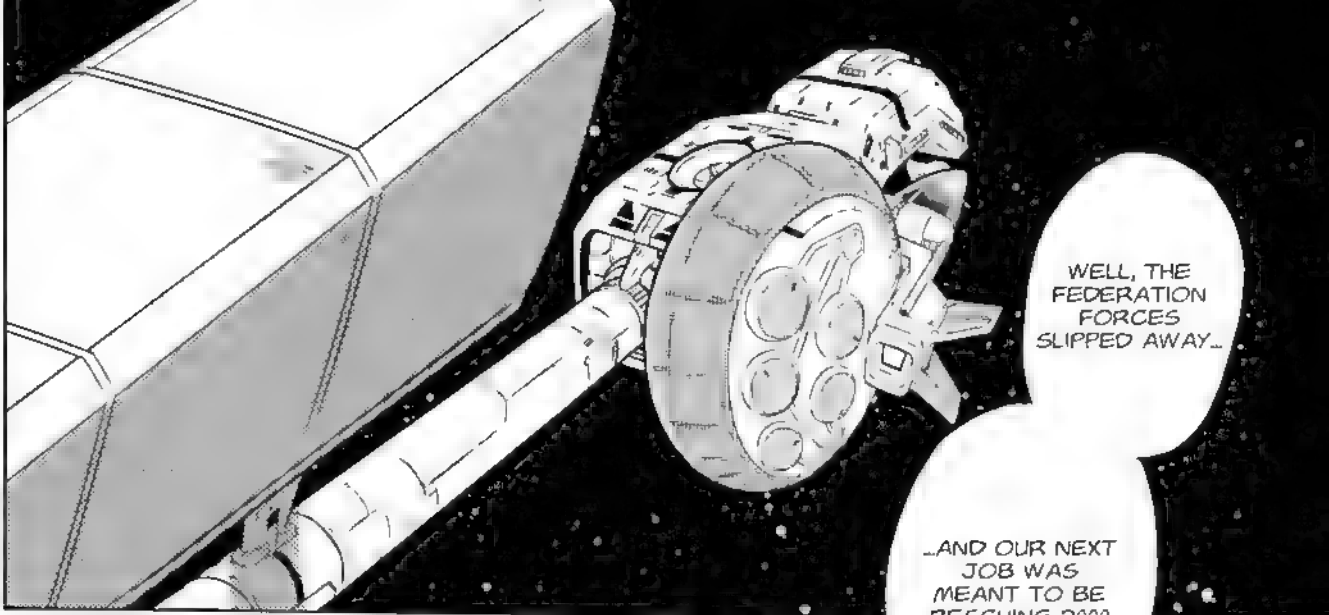
SAVE YOUR
QUESTIONS
FOR SAFER
GROUND.



TRUST
THAT I'M
AN ALLY...









YOU
CONVENIENTLY
LEFT THAT
OUT!

ALL OF
THEM
UNDER 10
YEARS OLD...



THESE ARE
2000 GIRLS
TRAFFICKED
TO THE
FEDERATION.

HARD TO
EXPLAIN
THIS ONE...

BUT...



OF COURSE
NOT.
I HADN'T
MENTIONED
IT YET,
HAD I?

HM...



I JUST WENT
THROUGH THIS
INTENSE
SITUATION WITH
MY CHILDHOOD
SAVIOR, YOU
KNOW?



HOLD ON...
JUST WAIT A
SECOND...

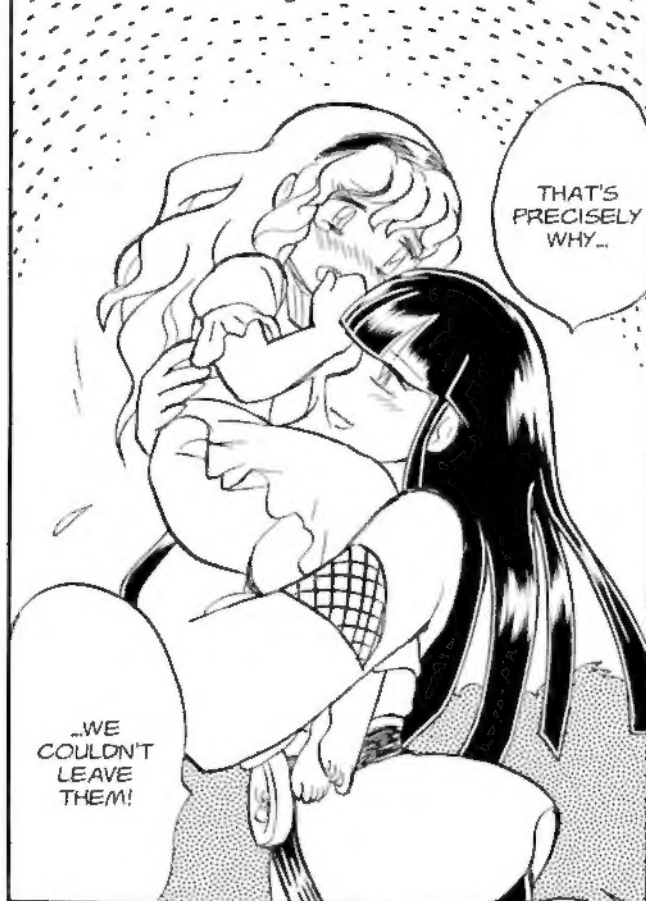


WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO
WITH THIS?

THIS?!

THE ONLY
THING
KEEPING ME
TOGETHER...

...WAS
THINKING
ABOUT THE
REWARD
AFTER THIS
JOB, AND
NOW...

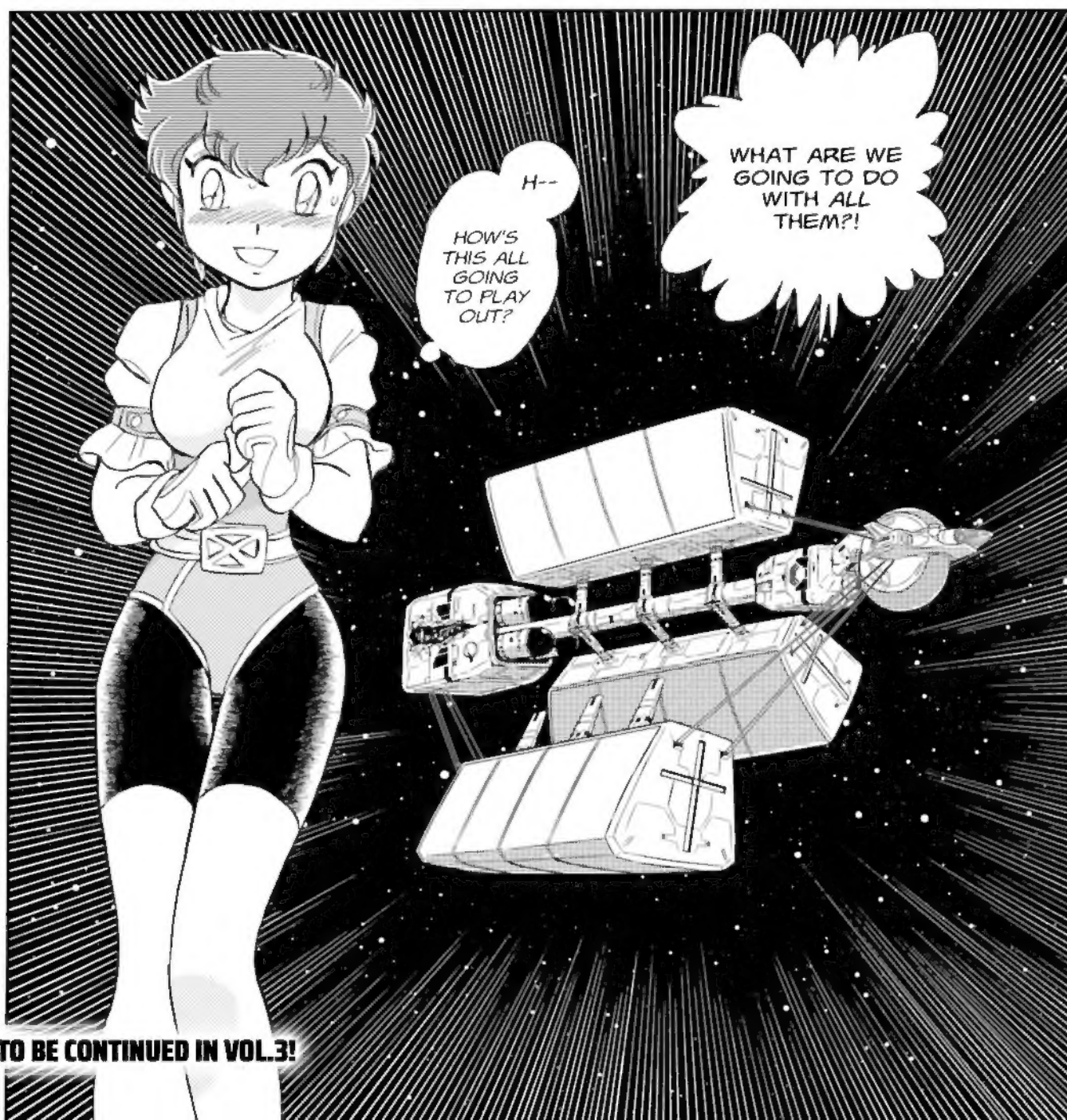






REALLY
THOUGH...

WH-



H--

HOW'S
THIS ALL
GOING
TO PLAY
OUT?

WHAT ARE WE
GOING TO DO
WITH ALL
THEM?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOL.3!



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